



H.E. Mr. Te Navuth
Secretary General
Cambodia National Mekong Committee
Member of the MRC Joint Committee for Cambodia
Chairperson of the MRC Joint Committee for 2014-2015

CLOSING REMARKS
2nd Mekong Climate Change Forum:
Adaptation to Climate Change in the Transboundary Context
6-8 October 2014, Siem Reap, Kingdom of Cambodia

Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

We have now come to the closing of what has been by all accounts a very successful and productive forum. On behalf of the Cambodia National Mekong Committee, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciations and gratitude to everyone – the Forum Moderator, the speakers, the facilitators, the chairs, the rapporteurs, the organising teams, those who played invisible roles behind the scene, and of course, our participants – for the contributions you have made to turn this Forum a success. I would also like to thank our Development Partners, in particular those who fund the Climate Change and Adaptation Initiative of the MRC, for their making financially possible to the Forum.

The Forum was lively and stimulating. Who could have imagined a better exchange than seeing representatives from several countries represent here in this room, joining forces in the discussions to provide suggestions and recommendations to tackle climate change challenges we are facing today and to play roles in reinforcing adaptation efforts so effectively. As **Mr. Hans Gutman** *CEO of the MRC Secretariat* has just mentioned, the Forum explored different measures and examples of climate change adaptation at both national and transboundary levels, shared various pieces of information and experiences, and especially reached a new conclusion on special topics of great interest to climate change enforcement policy-makers, academics, NGOs and the private sectors throughout the Mekong region.

And once again, I thank you all very much for reaching out to this conclusion that, besides presenting the current status of climate change in the Lower Mekong Basin, chatting what necessary steps for us to take in the future in fighting against and adapting to the changing climate challenges. The MRC Secretariat will soon be publishing this Forum Proceeding and make it available for public consumption.

***Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen***

- There is representation at this Forum from 14 countries. We had very distinguished officials from the biggest and the smallest nations, and the industrialised and non-industrialised countries. We speak many different languages and we have different forms of government.
- Despite these differences, anyone who had the privilege of participating in any of the sessions or other activities could not help but be struck by the open mindedness, depth of knowledge, and seriousness of purpose of all of you.
- Every single person here is a pioneer. Every day we are tackling new problems and questions for those answers. No one has a more difficult mission than we do. The consequences of our actions will be felt by our children and all succeeding generations. The most we can do is think openly, creatively, and honestly, with each other and share what we know and what we do not know. On this level we are a smashing success.
- We have also set an example of how people who come from different countries with different languages, different histories, and different political systems can work together. Most importantly, this Forum has encouraged and fostered civilised listening. It has allowed relationships to form which will be of benefit to each of us. And it has reinforced the very basic truth that we must work together if any of us is going to enjoy life on this planet.
- With that, I just would like to once again thank the two organising teams – the CNMC and MRC Secretariat – for their dedication and hard work to make this Forum a success.
- Finally, I would like to bring this Forum to a close. We have a very important effort to undertake and I am confident that this Forum has made a major contribution to the ultimate success of that effort. May I wish you all a safe trip home, and for those who continue to stay here in Siem Reap or travel to different parts of Cambodia, I wish you a pleasant and enjoyable holiday.

Thank you very much.